

Fritz then suggested that he should go
on ahead
with Captain Gould and John Block*
That would
spare the others fresh fatigue.

The proposal was unanimously
rejected* They
would not separate. They all wanted to
be there
when—or if—the sea became visible in
the north-
ward.

The march was resumed about nine
o'clock,
The mist tempered the heat of the sun.
At this
season it might have been
insupportable on this
stony waste, on which the rays fell
almost verti-
cally at noon*

While still extending towards the
north, the
plateau was widening out to east and
west, and
the sea, which so far had been visible in
both these
directions, would soon be lost to
sight* And
still there was not a tree, not a trace of
vegetation,
nothing but the same sterility and
solitude. A
few low hills rose here and there
ahead. /

At eleven o'clock a kind of cone
showed its
naked peak, towering some three
hundred feet
above this portion of the plateau.

"We must get to the top of that,"
said Jenny.

"Yes," Fritz replied; "from there
we shall
be able to see over a much wider

horizon. But it
may be a rough climb ^{13>}

It probably would be, but so
irresistible was
the general desire to ascertain the
actual situation
that no one would have consented
to remain